

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 10, 12-15, and 17 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges that claims 10, 12-15, and 17 have been allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

On pages 2-5, claims 1, 6, 8, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Adams et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,497,255 – hereinafter Adams.).

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, and 11 have been canceled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

On page 6, claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,416,327 (Nakada et al.).

Claim 2 has been canceled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submit that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the cited art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

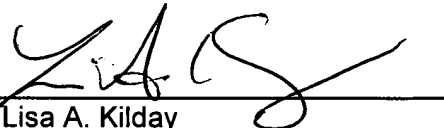
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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